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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,639	08/28/2003	Amrei Drechsler	TRW(ASG)6720	7470
7590	06/23/2005		EXAMINER	
TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL, TUMMINO & SZABO L.L.P. 1111 LEADER BLDG. 526 SUPERIOR AVENUE CLEVELAND, OH 44114-1400			DUNN, DAVID R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3616

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/650,639	DRECHSLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David Dunn	3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/14/03, 1/22/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements filed October 14, 2003 and January 22, 2004 are acknowledged. See enclosed IDS forms.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 4, line 16, "second seam 24" should be --second seam 26--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hidehito et al. (JP 10-166978; cited in IDS).

Hidehito et al. disclose a gas bag comprising: a gas bag wall with an upper portion (12) and limiting straps (18) connecting said upper portion (12) to an opposite portion (14) of said gas bag wall, a connecting ring (see horizontal portion of 18b along top portion of gas bag), from which said limiting straps (18b) originate, at least one reinforcement layer (44) provided between said connecting ring and said upper portion, at least one first seam (26), which fastens said connecting ring and said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, and at least one second seam (46), which only fastens said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, said second seam (46) being arranged radially outside said first seam (26). As shown by the Figure, the first seam is radially inwards of a transition of the limiting straps to the connecting ring. The reinforcement layer is disc-shaped; and the ring and straps are made of fabric.

6. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiroshi (JP 06286541; cited in IDS).

Hiroshi discloses a gas bag comprising: a gas bag wall with an upper portion (42) and limiting straps (58) connecting said upper portion (42) to an opposite portion (44) of said gas bag wall, a connecting ring (see horizontal portion of 58 along top portion of gas bag), from which said limiting straps originate, at least one reinforcement layer (54) provided between said connecting ring and said upper portion, at least one first seam (60), which fastens said connecting ring and said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, and at least one second seam (56), which only fastens said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, said second seam (56) being arranged radially outside said first seam (60). As shown by the Figure, the first seam is

radially inwards of a transition of the limiting straps to the connecting ring. The reinforcement layer is disc-shaped; and the ring and straps are made of fabric.

7. Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maurer et al. (5,478,114).

Maurer et al. disclose a gas bag comprising: a gas bag wall (see Figures 6-7) with an upper portion (12) and limiting straps (230, 240) connecting said upper portion (12) to an opposite portion (14) of said gas bag wall, a connecting ring (214), from which said limiting straps originate, at least one reinforcement layer (202) provided between said connecting ring and said upper portion, at least one first seam (254), which fastens said connecting ring and said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, and at least one second seam (256), which only fastens said reinforcement layer to said upper portion, said second seam (256) being arranged radially outside said first seam (254). The first seam (254) is radially inwards of a transition of the limiting straps to the connecting ring (see Figure 6). The reinforcement layer (202) is disc-shaped (see Figure 7).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Igawa et al. shows a gas bag with similar seams (see Figure 6). Keshavaraj shows tether attachments of interest. Imai shows a gas bag of interest. Nakayama et al. shows a gas bag with tethers of interest.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Dunn whose telephone number is 571-272-6670. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Dunn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616